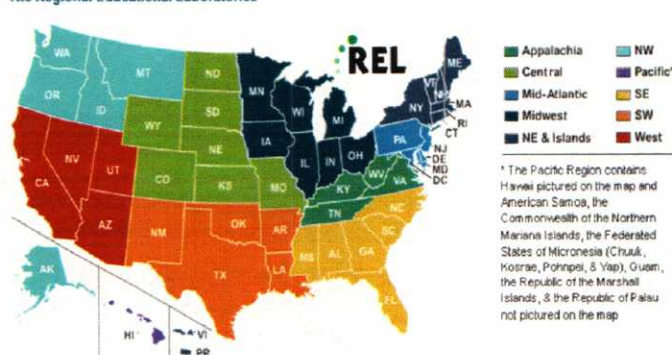


# Top 10 Things to Know About the Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs)



1. The RELs are currently authorized by the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA). There are **10 RELs**, each of which serves a legislatively designated region.
2. By law, RELs are charged with three main activities:
  - a. Conducting **applied research**
  - b. Providing **support and training** for the application of research to education problems
  - c. **Disseminating** credible, up-to-date research

The Regional Educational Laboratories

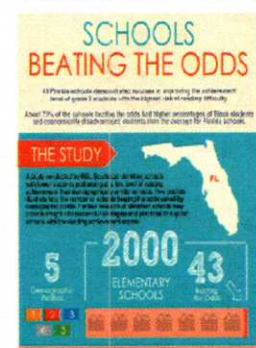


3. RELs are **operated under contract** to the Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (5 year contracts).
4. Their **direct partners** include both school districts and state departments of education of the United States or associated entities (among others). One implication: RELs are partners, not research assistants to SEA/LEAs.
5. Each REL has a **Governing Board** that provides strategic direction and prioritizes work. Boards include state chiefs or their representatives and other regional stakeholders. One implication: your state chief has a voice on your REL's Governing Board.
6. REL work is organized according to an "**updated annual plan**," which is developed by each REL in response to regional needs (and then approved by IES).
7. All REL research is **peer reviewed** for rigor, relevance, and readability. One implication: REL work must meet IES quality standards.
8. RELs' activities contribute to an **overall program-wide portfolio** of work. The goal is to meet regional needs while also benefitting the nation.
9. **Research Alliances** are at the core of 2012-2017 REL work (see page 2).

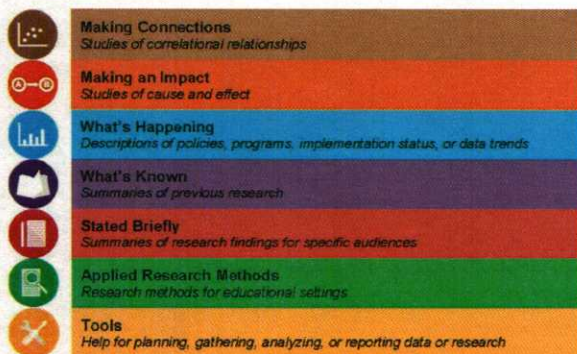
## IES Publications



## Infographics



## REL Product Lines



10. **RELs are innovative!** The 2012-2017 RELs' partnerships with LEAs and SEAs are resulting in very useful tools, reports, and other resources. If you haven't visited us in a while, it's time to take another look!

## Logic Model Maker Software

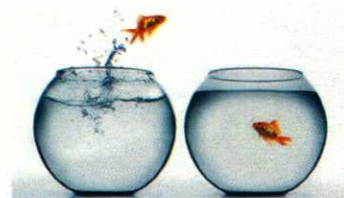




# REL Program Research Alliances

## What is a research alliance?

- A group of practitioners and/or policymakers that, together with researchers, works over time to use data and research to understand and address a specific education problem.



*Practitioners and researchers working together in the same world, not in separate worlds!*

## Why research alliances?

- Sustained work over time
- A complete inquiry cycle rather than “one-off” projects
- Focus on building LEA & SEA capacity
- Higher probability of RELs’ research and support/training motivated by authentic problems of practice
- Greater likelihood of policy and practice informed by data and research

## The 79 REL Research Alliances are diverse in many ways:

Topical Focus	Structure
Range of different topics, from broad (Dropout Prevention Research Alliance), to specific (Texas Hispanic STEM Research Alliance).	Some alliances are “flat” (all members have equal participation), others have multiple levels or working groups.
<u>Common topics across regions:</u> Educator Effectiveness College and Career Readiness English Learners Early Childhood	Some alliances were pre-existing partnerships that the REL joined to provide support. Others were established by the REL.
Membership	Geography
Multiple stakeholders (LEA/SEA, teachers, policymakers, researchers, community based organizations, etc.); balance and size of group varies across alliances.	Almost all research alliances include multiple districts or states; more are multi-state than single state.

## For more information:

- Sign up for the IES Newsflash at [www.ies.ed.gov/newsflash](http://www.ies.ed.gov/newsflash)
- Ask A REL: [www.ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/askarel](http://www.ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/askarel)
- On Twitter: @IES\_NCEE, @REL\_Appalachia, @RELCentral, @RELMidAtlantic, @RELMidwest, @REL\_NEI, @relnw, @RELPacific, @REL\_SE, @RELSouthwest, and @REL\_West
- IES YouTube Channel with archived webinars, short REL videos about impact, and more!  
<http://Bit.ly/IESvideos>